

Training Ship Empire State Deployed to Support Gulf Coast Recovery Operations

By Bill McDonald, North Atlantic Region



*MARAD Senior Advisor for Maritime Policy Kevin Krick, center: left, joined SUNY Maritime College Acting President VADM John Craine, USN (Ret.), and North Atlantic Region Director Robert F. McKeon, center: right, at a recent departure ceremony for the SUNY Maritime College Training Ship *Empire State*. The vessel will provide emergency berthing to port workers and petroleum industry employees during Gulf Coast recovery operations.*

Photo Courtesy of SUNY Maritime College

On September 10, the Maritime Administration's Senior Advisor for Maritime Policy Kevin Krick and North Atlantic Region Director Robert McKeon joined State University of New York (SUNY) Maritime College Acting President VADM John Craine, USN (Ret.), on campus for a departure ceremony for the Training Ship *Empire State*, which is providing emergency berthing to port workers and petroleum industry employees engaged in restarting U.S. oil production and transport operations on the Gulf Coast.

The training vessel is providing berthing for 625 ConocoPhillips employees, and carries on board 37

galley workers providing food service 22 hours per day. In a spirit of friendly cooperation, approximately 35 Midshipmen from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York, joined Maritime Cadets from SUNY Maritime College to help provision the vessel prior to its sailing. A news team from Channel 12, a local cable station, recorded the proceedings and interviewed participating officials. Mr. Krick discussed MARAD's ongoing efforts to deploy maritime assets and personnel in support of Hurricane Katrina recovery operations.